

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-10 IO-13 CPR-01 OIC-02  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
/086 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:BH  
APPROVED BY P - MR NEWSOM  
NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.  
D- MR LAMB  
S MR HOUGHTON  
S/S:PTARNOFF

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O 070051Z APR 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089378

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO CENTO SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE PROMPTLY TO CENTO SYG  
KAMURAN GURUN.
  
2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL:

I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO GREETING YOU IN WASHINGTON  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING,  
AND TO CONVEYING TO YOU MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS, AS  
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WELL AS THOSE OF MY GOVERNMENT, ON YOUR ASSUMING THE  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL  
TREATY ORGANIZATION. WE BELIEVE THAT CENTO HAS AN IMPORT-  
ANT ROLE TO PLAY WITH REGARD TO THE SECURITY OF THE CENTO  
REGION AND ALSO WITH REGARD TO THE HIGHLY VALUABLE  
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF  
THE ORGANIZATION.

I WRITE TO YOU AT THIS MOMENT AS A RESULT OF URGENT REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE ARisen THAT WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 19-20, THE DATES SET FOR THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE CENTO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL.

I WISH TO LAY THE MATTER BEFORE YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND CONSIDERATION, AND SEEK YOUR ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED.

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY HEAVILY ENGAGED IN RECENT MONTHS, IN THE CLOSEST COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN SEEKING AN EARLY, EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT REGARDING THE FUTURE OF RHODESIA. IN VERY RECENT DISCUSSIONS IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO CONVENE AN URGENT MEETING OF INTERESTED PARTIES IN AFRICA ON THIS MATTER, AND I WILL THEREFORE BE RETURNING TO AFRICA FOR DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL KEEP ME OCCUPIED THERE THROUGH APRIL 17.

MEANWHILE, MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS OF CONSIDERABLE AND URGENT IMPORTANCE. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT I SHOULD GO PERSONALLY TO MOSCOW AT AN EARLY DATE TO CARRY FORWARD THESE DISCUSSIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I SHALL HAVE TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW BY THE EVENING OF APRIL 19.

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AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE ABOVE, THE NEED FOR ME TO BE IN AFRICA THROUGH APRIL 17 AND TO BE IN MOSCOW BY LATE ON APRIL 19 WILL PRECLUDE MY BEING IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 19-20 FOR THE CENTO MEETING. WE ARE, OF COURSE, PREPARED TO GO FORWARD WITH THE CENTO MEETING HERE ON THOSE DATES, AND IN THAT EVENT MY DEPUTY, WARREN CHRISTOPHER, WOULD CHAIR THE U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION AS WELL AS THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY IN THE CENTO MEETING AND TO MEET WITH THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE OTHER CENTO COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS WITH YOU. HAVING THIS IN MIND, I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM THE POSSIBILITY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE ABLE TO SERVE AS HOST IN LONDON FOR THE CENTO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN OUR PLACE, SHOULD THAT BE AGREEABLE TO THE REGIONAL MEMBERS. MR. OWEN HAS VERY GRACIOUSLY AGREED, AND I BELIEVE THAT HE WILL BE COMMUNICATING WITH YOU AND THE REGIONAL MEMBERS ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

IF YOU AND THE REGIONAL MEMBERS AGREE THAT OUR NEXT  
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN LONDON, I

SHOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU AND THE HEADS OF DELEGATION TO  
BE MY GUESTS AT DINNER ON APRIL 18 SO THAT WE MAY HAVE AN  
INFORMAL OCCASION TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF INTEREST TO US  
ALL.

I WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL, MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, IF YOU  
WOULD LET ME HAVE YOUR VIEWS. IF YOU SHOULD AGREE THAT IT  
WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HOLD THE COUNCIL MEETING IN LONDON,  
PURSUANT TO THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED  
KINGDOM, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD UNDERTAKE THE  
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NECESSARY URGENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE  
REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES.

I SEND MY BEST WISHES FOR YOUR SUCCESS IN YOUR POSITION OF  
SECRETARY GENERAL, AND LOOK FORWARD TO A PERSONAL MEETING  
WITH YOU. CYRUS VANCE END QUOTE.

3. REPORT PROMPTLY ANY REACTION TO ABOVE LETTER.

4. WE SHALL HAVE TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH HMG AND YOU  
SHOULD THEREFORE KEEP YOUR BRITISH COLLEAGUE CURRENTLY  
INFORMED REGARDING YOUR APPROACH. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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